



Homeland
Security

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News Release

ICE CREATES FEDERAL AIR MARSHALS ADVISORY BOARD

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Michael J. Garcia, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Assistant Secretary for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), has announced the establishment of an advisory board to complete the integration of the Federal Air Marshals Service (FAMS) into ICE.

The FAMS transferred from the DHS Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) to ICE in November 2003. In the following year, the integration of FAMS into the agency was a gradual process as ICE focused on the initial challenge of bringing together investigative programs from the legacy U.S. Customs and U.S. Immigration and Naturalization services. The new advisory board is designed to address any residual issues related to the integration of FAMS into ICE.

"The role of the Federal Air Marshal Service is vital to the protection of our homeland," Assistant Secretary Garcia said. "As we go into the second year, ICE will need to take additional steps toward the effective integration of the FAMS. I believe the work of this FAMS Advisory Board will further enhance the integration of the FAMS into ICE and improve overall job satisfaction within the FAMS work force."

ICE Deputy Assistant Secretary John Clark will chair the FAMS Advisory Board. The board will be comprised of two other members of the ICE executive staff, FAMS Deputy Director Robert Byers and two FAMS field senior executives. A senior representative from the DHS Border and Transportation Security (BTS) staff may also occasionally participate in board deliberations.

The advisory board will provide information and recommendations on key FAMS policy and operational issues. Some of the issues the FAMS Advisory Board will initially address are hiring, dress code, technology, the FAMS role in airport security and the FAMS career ladder within ICE.

The structure and purpose of the advisory board will be similar to that of an earlier advisory body the agency created to address issues related to the ICE Office of Investigations.

One of five divisions in ICE, the Federal Air Marshal Service was transferred to ICE from the Transportation Security Agency following the establishment of DHS. Its mission is the effective deployment of Federal Air Marshals to detect, deter and defeat hostile acts targeting U.S. air carriers, airports, passengers and crews.

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.